

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

MUD CREEK
MISSIONARY BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Mud Creek Baptist Church,

JEFFERSON COUNTY,
ALABAMA,

OCTOBER 15 AND 16, 1897.

The next Session will be held with Liberty Church, commencing on Friday
before the Third Sunday in October, 1898.

STATISTICS OF THE MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERKS P. O.	NAMES OF DELEGATES	Membership Last Reported	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Letter	Increase by Restoration	Decrease by Letter	Decrease by Exclusion	Decrease by Death	Present Membership	Missionary Fund	Minute Fund	Associational Fund
Big Creek...	J. M. Wright.	B. B. Givens	Toadvine ...	J. D. Maddox, W. B. Smith, G. W. Weaver ...	66	12	2	...	...	...	10	\$ 3 25	\$ 25	25
Concord ...	J. M. Wright	D. G. Knight. .	Earnest	J. M. Wright, T. N. Crowder, A. J. Batson	66	12	8	...	8	2	74	\$ 3 25	75	80	
Connellsville, J. D. Martin	W. L. Herring.	C. R. Hood	Belle S'mpt'r Palos	J. Hixdon, W. A. Jones, W. L. Herring	58	15	17	...	2	2	54	1 05	55	55	
Freewill ...	A. White	J. W. Snow...	Toadvine ...	J. H. Mauldin, A. J. Summers, C. B. Hood	64	...	...	...	6	3	59	...	1 10	1 15
Hopewell ...	A. White ...	Wed. Vines. ...	Short Creek	A. White, J. T. Davis, W. H. Snow	61	12	2	1	1	1	3	53	...	75	75
Liberty. ...	J. M. Wright	S. T. Travis. ...	Rasburgh ...	J. H. Hood, J. T. Vines, S. W. R. Vines	118	5	5	1	11	2	122	...	1 00	1 00	
Mud Creek... J. C. Gihner.	J. H. Knight	Whittington	Walden	W. L. Ramey, W. C. Cargill, S. T. Travis	88	5	2	1	3	...	91	7 00	1 00	1 00	
Mt. Ida ...	A. White ...	Ezra	Walden	G. N. Miller, J. H. Knight, S. J. Robertson	20	6	...	...	...	...	37	...	75	60
New Bethel ...	O. J. Waldrop...	J. A. Roberts ...	Toadvine ...	W. H. Batson, S. F. Wilkey, H. A. Stringfellow	107	1	2	...	3	1	107	...	70	70	
Pleasant Hill Rock Creek	B. M. Waldrop..	J. T. McVickin	Toadvine ...	J. T. McVickin, S. J. Waldrop, J. J. Waldrop	80	...	...	...	4	2	70	2 00	75	45
Smithville... J. M. Wright.	E. L. Payne. ...	Toadvine	Walden	J. Franklin, W. B. Rodgers, G. W. Payne	26	10	18	2	...	2	49	...	75	25	
Sards... J. Satterfield	L. F. Johnson...	Adger	Walden	J. Satterfield, L. F. Johnson, B. Walden	42	3	13	...	40	45	
Union Grove	740	69	46	5	35	15	12	\$ 13 30	\$ 8 75	\$ 7 95	

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PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

RASBURGH, ALA., Friday, Oct. 15, 1897.

The Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association met this day in its Twenty-sixth Annual Session in the Meeting House of the Mud Creek Baptist Church at 11:00 a. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. A. White: text, Matthew v:16. After prayer by W. H. Snow, the meeting adjourned until 2:00 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator at 2:00 p. m. The first division of the Psalms was read, after which prayer was offered by Rev J. A. Markham. The Clerk being absent, J. J. Waldrop was appointed Clerk *pro tem*.

The names of the churches were then called, the letters being laid on the table by the delegates. Rev. J. M. Wright and Rev. J. H. Mauldin were appointed to read the letters.

The names of the delegates enrolled from the churches were:

BIG CREEK—J. D. Maddox, W. B. Smith, G. W. Weaver.

CONCORD—Rev. J. M. Wright, Rev. A. J. Batson, T. N. Crowder.

FREEWILL—Rev. J. H. Mauldin, A. J. Sumners, C. B. Hood.

HOPEWELL—Rev. A. White, J. T. Davis, W. H. Snow.

LIBERTY—J. H. Hood, J. T. Vines, S. W. B. Vines.

MUD CREEK—W. L. Raney, W. C. Cargil, S. T. Travis.

MOUNT IDA—J. H. Knight, S. J. Robertson, G. N. Miller.

OAK GROVE—W. H. Batson, S. F. Wilkey, H. A. Stringfellow.

ROCK CREEK—J. T. McMicken, S. J. Waldrop, J. J. Waldrop.

SMITHVILLE—J. Franklin, W. B. Rodgers, G. W. Payne.

CONNELLSVILLE—J. Higdon, W. A. Jones, W. L. Herring.

SARDIS—J. Satterfield, L. F. Johnson, B. Walden.

The following churches were not represented: New Bethel, Pleasant Hill, and Union Grove.

The election of officers being declared in order, Rev. A. White was elected Moderator, and J. J. Waldrop Clerk.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees :

ON DEVOTION—J. D. Maddox, W. B. Rodgers, W. L. Raney, with the deacons of Mud Creek Church.

ON DOCUMENTS—S. J. Waldrop, J. T. Davis, S. T. Travis.

ON NOMINATIONS—W. H. Batson, G. N. Miller, J. T. McMickin.

ON FINANCE—S. F. Wilkey, J. T. Vines, W. H. Snow.

ON DECEASED MEMBERS—Rev. J. H. Mauldin, W. C. Cargil, J. Franklin.

Petitionary letters were called for and none received.

The correspondence from other Associations was from Rev. J. A. Markham, of the Harmony Association.

On motion of Rev. J. M. Wright, the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Abstract of Principles were read by S. A. Parsons.

W. H. Batson was appointed Treasurer.

After prayer by the Moderator, the Session adjourned to meet on Saturday at 8:00 a. m. Rev. J. H. Mauldin preached at 7:00 p. m; text, Galatians, vi:7. He was followed by Rev. J. M. Wright.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met at 8:00 a. m. The Moderator read the fifty-first division of the Psalms. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. C. Gilmer.

The Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools was called for and none received.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

For one to be temperate implies self-control in every department in life. In this report, however, one leading thought proclaimed is temperance in regard to the use of strong drink. It is a fact not to be disputed and lamentably true that the liquor business is the most widespread and destructive curse that now afflicts our common country. The effect of this vice is seen everywhere. Where it is practiced it engenders poverty, breeds vice, instigates murder, and is responsible, either directly or indirectly, for nine-tenths of the crimes of the land.

Our pastors and church members should take high strong ground on this subject.

There is only one proper attitude to be taken by us, and that is total abstinence; on our own part and by precept and example we should impress its importance upon the minds of the people with whom we associate—especially the young. It is lamentably true, also, that our churches do not exercise that wholesome discipline over their members regarding this vicious and ruinous habit of drinking that they should. We would urge when our churches do so discipline in this respect that we, the Baptists of this Association, might be known as unfavorable to this pernicious habit; that we regard it as radically wrong; and that those members now with us who wilfully and viciously persist in this crying evil, will be dismissed from us as unworthy the name of Christians. Let us raise our standard so high that when a member engages in selling or using ardent spirits he may know that dismissal from us will certainly be the result.

We recommend that our people everywhere use all wise and legitimate means for the suppression of the liquor business.

Respectfully submitted,

S. J. WALDROP, Chairman.

The report was discussed by Rev. J. C. Gilmer, Rev. J. M. Wright, Rev. A. White, and adopted.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Will God in his providence long permit any people to retain his Word if that people do not give it to others? Let every church think of the great command: "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel to every creature" (Mark xvi:15-16), given as scriptural authority for the enterprise of missions in all of its workings. It is clear from this that the Gospel is to be preached at home and abroad, for it is to be preached in all the world and to all nations. "Ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem and all Judea and in Samaria, and to the utmost parts of the earth." This was the method adopted in apostolic times and was zealously executed.

It may be laid down as a rule that no church not animated with the missionary spirit can be in a healthy, full, prosperous state. The missionary spirit is the spirit of the Gospel—the spirit of Christ. Of every church it ought to be said in truth as

of the Thessalonians: "From you sound out the word of the Lord." The sound should go forth till it reaches the remotest limits of the earth. The word of the Lord is the Gospel by which sinners of all nations may be saved: "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent."—Romans x:13-15.

Dear brethern, indifference to the cause of missions is cruelty to immortal souls. How are sinners in our own land or in foreign lands to be saved without the Gospel? Ought not those who have the Gospel send it to those who have it not? Earth's wretched millions are starving for the Bread of Life, and this is in the custody of the churches. Dare they refuse to distribute among the perishing at home and abroad?

No church can perform its duties to the world without sustaining the cause of missions—without giving according to its ability to spread the Gospel of the Grace of God. Praying without giving is presumptive; and giving without praying indicates a self-dependence offensive to God. Let it be said of every church as of Cornelius: "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up as a memorial before God." When prayers and works are together we are following the instructions of Paul when he wrote to the church: "Romans, I am ready to preach the Gospel, for I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."—Romans i:16.

James tell us, "Faith without works is dead, being alone; show me thy faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works"—James ii:18. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him by faith. Noah, moved with fear, prepared an ark, saved his house, condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith"—Heb. xi:6-7.

Respectfully submitted,

T. R. CARGIL, Chairman.

Discussed by Rev. J. M. Wright, Rev. J. C. Gilmer, Rev. J. A. Markham, and Rev. A. White, and adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

It is an admitted fact that education is an important factor to success in any of the vocations of life. Education means freedom from ignorance. Education should commence at the cradle.

Dear brethren, we should educate our children not only literally, but morally and spiritually. We are taught by the blessed Word to "bring them up in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it." We should employ as much as possible Christian hearted men and women for school teachers, for impressions formed on the minds of our youths are the most lasting. Then those who attend school are not only prepared for their own business affairs, but they are also taught, both by example and precept, the Christ-like spirit of being helpful to others. Education beautifies life in all classes of people; it makes their faces shine brilliantly even in natural life, and education of the heart prepares them for Heaven.

Respectfully submitted,

D. M. WALDROP, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, after examining the letters from the various churches, find that three churches request the next session of this body, viz: Liberty, Hopewell, and Connellsville.

Respectfully submitted,

S. J. WALDROP, Chairman.

Committee on Nominations not ready to report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, with sorrow submit the names of several of our much loved in Christ who have been called to try the realities of the invisible world since our last meeting, viz: Sisters M. J. Snow, M. L. Vines, and M. A. Prescott, of Hopewell Church; Rev. J. N. McFalls, and Sister Sarah Goodwin, of Oak Grove Church; Sister Nancy Howton, and Mary Ann Howton, of Mud Creek Church; Brother B. M. Waldrop, and Sister M. A. Waldrop, of Rock Creek Church; Brother C. L. Vines, and Sister Betty Vines, of Liberty Church; Sister Margaret Perry, of Mount Ida Church.

As we know that our loss is their gain let us, therefore brethren, pray that their absence may be filled by the presence of God.

Rev. J. H. MAULDIN, Chairman.

On motion of S. J. Waldrop the following Standing Committees were appointed by the Moderator: on Education, Rev. A. J. Batson; on Sabbath Schools, W. H. Batson; on Temperance, Rev. J. M. Wright; on Missions, Rev. J. H. Mauldin.

The Committee on Devotion reported preaching at 11 a. m. by Rev. A. J. Batson, followed by Rev. J. A. Markham, then adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

Prayer by S. A. Parsons 11 a. m., text John iii: 16.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Martin of the Birmingham Association.

Called for Correspondence: Rev. W. J. Ray, from Coosa River Association; Revs. J. C. Gilmer and J. D. Martin, and Brother A. J. Smith, from the Birmingham Association.

Committee on Devotion report preaching at 7 p. m. by Rev. J. C. Gilmer, followed by Rev. W. J. Ray.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, find nothing to claim our attention except a call for the next session of the body at Hopewell, Liberty, and Connellsville. We recommend that Liberty Church entertain the next session of this body, to commence on the Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1898; the introductory address to be delivered by Rev. G. B. Vines at 11 a. m. on Friday, and the Missionary Sermon to be preached by Elder A. White at 11 a. m. on Sunday.

Respectfully submitted, W. H. BATSON, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, report as follows: Associational Purposes, \$7.95; Minute Fund, \$8.75; Missionary Purposes, \$13.30; total, \$30.00.

Respectfully submitted, S. F. WILKEY, Chairman.

On motion of W. H. Batson, the Clerk was voted \$7.95 for his services; \$8.75 to be used for printing Minutes; and \$13.30 to be sent to the secretary of the State Mission Board.

Resolved, That we extend our thanks to the brethren of Mud Creek Church and surrounding community, for their

kindness to us. They will live long in our memory and in the affection of our hearts.

On motion of Rev. J. M. Wright the body adjourned to meet with Liberty Church on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1898, at 11 a. m. Prayer by Rev. J. C. Gilmer.

J. J. WALDROP,
Clerk.

REV. A. WHITE,
Moderator.

Sunday 11 a. m. the Missionary Sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Martin, of the Birmingham Association, from Psalms lxxii: 16, followed by Rev. W. J. Ray, of the Coosa River Association. A collection was taken up for Missions amounting to \$13.35.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. It shall be formed of delegates from all the churches which may connect themselves with this body.

ART. 3. Any church may be admitted into this body by general consent of the members present at any regular session.

ART. 4. Any church may withdraw from this body at its own discretion, on proper application for dismission.

ART. 5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered as an advisory counsel in all matters relative to their internal affairs.

ART. 6. The churches in the union shall transmit each annual session of the Association with a written communication specifying the names of their messengers, and the state of their churches since last session.

ART. 7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 8. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 9. The Association when convening shall be governed by regular and proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

ART. 10. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be chosen by and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that all the Rules of Decorum be strictly observed, and take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to make proper and correct minutes of the Association.

ART. 11. The Association shall have the power to drop from her union any church which may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

ART. 12. The Association shall furnish the churches with minutes according to the funds sent up for said purpose by the churches.

ART. 13. Queries that immediately concern the union of the churches, or introduced by a proper motion of the body, may be taken up and decided by the body.

ART. 14. The Association shall have a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys from the Finance Committee, and pay it out at the order of the Association.

ART. 15. The Association shall have the right to enact and carry out missionary work in all its bearings, so that giving or withholding shall not be a barrier of fellowship.

ART. 16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, unless it be in extraordinary cases.

ART. 17. Minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, if necessary before the session rises.

ART. 18. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members may deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have the right to call to order at any time ; it shall also be his duty to see that the Rules of Decorum are attended, and to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body.

ART. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day that the decision is made, but at no other time.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of the transactions of the Association.

ART. 5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.

ART. 6. The Moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming the applicant or otherwise.

ART. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under consideration, of use words of personal reflection, or with a view of calling to order for some particular purpose; and motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by the one who made it.

ART. 8. After every case taken up by the Association, allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall put the question, and, if necessary, the sense of the body may be taken up by rising to their feet.

ART. 9. When any subject is taken up by the Association it shall first be decided upon before another is proposed.

ART. 10. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the same.

ART. 11. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address to each other.

ART. 12. The names of members shall be called as often as necessary.

ART. 13. No person shall indulged in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in any time of public speech, or other practices that would dishonor the Association.

ART. 14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as others, provided he appoint some member to take his seat while he is speaking, but shall not be entitled to vote unless the Association be equally divided ; then he shall have the casting vote.

ART. 15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, without first obtaining leave of the Association, unless to explain.

ART. 16. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reprovved at the discretion of the Moderator, but only on the day the breach is made.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, three in one.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
4. We believe in a man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and holiness.
5. We believe in the doctrine of election, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of truth.
6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe the Saints will persevere in grace and not finally fall away.
8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only proper subjects, and do conscientiously believe that the true mode of Baptism is immersion.
9. We believe in the resurrection and the general judgment.
10. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
11. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as have been called of God, and regularly baptized and approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hand by presbytery.
12. We believe that none but believers have a right to the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

List of Ordained Ministers

A. WHITE, - - -	TOADVINE, JEFFERSON COUNTY, " " "
J. H. MAULDIN, - - -	QUINTON, " " "
A. J. BATSON, - - -	EARNEST, " " "
G. B. VINES, - - -	SHORT CREEK, " " "
G. H. BEAN, - - -	EZRA, " " "
P. A. WILKEY, - - -	" " " "
J. M. WRIGHT, - - -	EARNEST, " " "